

Application Serial No. 10/784,974
Reply to Office Action dated August 10, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

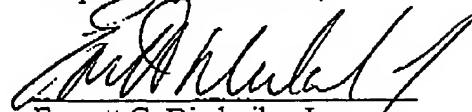
Initially, the Applicant would like to thank Examiner Paschall for taking the time to discuss the outstanding Office Action in the present case with the Applicant's representative on November 1, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner and the Applicant's representative discussed the prior art reference to Gössler et al., particularly emphasizing the ambiguity of the Gössler et al. reference and the various distinctions between the Gössler et al. reference and the claims of the present application. During the interview, it was agreed that Gössler et al. clearly does not teach gradually increasing an initial low temperature of either a single or multiple heating elements upon movement of a control element in different directions. To further clarify this distinction, the Applicant agreed to amend claims 1, 9 and 17 to more particularly point and distinctly claim the invention. Thus, claims 1, 9 and 17 now recite that initial movement of the control element in a first direction activates only the first heating element at an initial temperature, with continued movement in the first direction increasing an operating temperature of the first heating element and, initial movement of the control element in the second direction activates both the first and second heating elements at an initial temperature, with continued movement in the second direction increasing a combined operating temperature of the first and second heating elements. Given the agreements reached during the interview, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are patentably defined over the prior art of record and thus should be readily allowed.

With respect to the remaining claims, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach many of the more specific limitations recited in the dependent claims. For example, none of the prior art discloses determining a direction of movement of a control element through sensing a change in resistance of a variable resistor as presented in claims 4, 12 and 18. In any event, based on the above remarks, and amendments to the claims, it is submitted that the present invention is patentably defined over the prior art of record such that allowance of all claims and passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional questions concerning

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the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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